Bookstall structures at railway stations

*293. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interest of the administration as well as to curb congestion at the platforms, vacant space has been provided at the railway station buildings itself for erecting structures of bookstalls by the Contractor themselves, and an additional amount as rent is being recovered; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the extant policy the cost of construction of bookstall is borne by the allottees and a nominal rent is charged for the space allotted by the Railways. This rent is in addition to the lumpsum licence fee, electricity and water charges being paid by the licencees separately.

Gurudakshina Scheme

*294. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in The Times of India dated 30th June, 2002, under the caption, "Human Resource Development Ministry reminds to the past, plans to impose Gurudakshina";

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are aware of the mounting opposition to the proposed scheme; if so, whether it is proposed to roll it back, in view of the opposition; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No such decision has been taken by the Government till yet.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.